tem) in Chikmagalur out of about 3000 connections proposed for Karnataka Telecom Circle for 1997-98.

Waiting List in Chikamagalur

5376. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that thousands of applicants are on the waiting list for telephone connections at various Telephone Exchanges under the Chikamagalur area district in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof, exchange-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to expand the exchanges and to clear the backlogs within short time?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 102 exchanges in Chikamagalur Telecomm. District and the waiting list is 5046. The details are given in the statement attached.

(c) The entire Waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 98 subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Chikamagalur-Waiting List as on 31.03.97

S.No.	Name of Exchange	Type of Exchanges	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.	Addagadde	CDOT	50
2.	Ajjampura	CDOT	41
3.	Aldur	ECA+CDOT	190
4.	Amrulkapura	MILT	50
5.	Anoor	CDOT	61
6.	Antharagatta	MILT	23
7.	Arasinaguppe	MILT+CDOT	71
8.	Alligundi	MILT	19
9.	Avathi	MILT+CDOT	35
10.	Balahole	CDOT	40
11.	Balehonnur	NEAX	28
12.	Banakal	CDOT	114
13.	Bandigadi	CDOT	34
14.	Bararikatte	CDOT	81
15.	Begar	MILT	29
16.	Bettagere	CDOT	17
17.	Bidare	CDOT	16
18.	Birne	CDOT	12
19.	Bukkambudi	CDOT+MILT	23
20.	Chiknagalur	CDOT	600
21.	Chowlahiriyur	MILT	9
22.	Daradaballi	MILT	38
23.	Darakoppa	MILT	66
24.	Devonur	MILT	11
25.	Gadomeshwara	MILT	20
26.	Gonibeedu	CDOT	88
27.	Goodahalli	CDOT	29
28.	Gubgal	CDOT	38
29.	Gullanpe	CDOT	51
30.	Gutti	MILT	11
31.	Hanthur	CDOT	26
32.	Hariharapnra	CDOT+MILT	120
33.	Herur	MILT	49
34.	Hirabyle	CDOT	29
35.	Hirakbdige	CDOT	43
36.	Hiranallur	CDOT	9
37.	Hoorinahaklu	MILT	15
38.	Haranadu	MILT	8
39.	Hunaregatla	MILT	19
40.	Javali	CDOT	48
41.	Jayapura	CDOT	89
42.	Joldal	CDOT	47
43.	K.B. Hall	CDOT	45
44.	Kabbinahalli	CDOT	49
45.	Kachige	CDOT	63
46.	Kadna	CDOT+SBM	19
47.	Kalara	ECAx	143
48.	Kalasapura	MILT+MILT	45
49.	Kammardi	CDOT	133
50.	Kanathi	MILT	36
51.	Kelgna	CDOT	73
52.	Kemmanugundi	MILT	10
53.	Kesuvinamane	MILT	5
54.	Kigga	CDOT	41
55.	Koppa	CDOT+SBM	202
56.	Koranahalli	MILT	8
57.	Kudhlr	MILT	12
58.	Kudregundi	CDOT	61
59.	Kundur	MILT	17
60.	Kunkanadu	MILT	24
61.	Lakkavalli	MILT+CDOT	10
62.	Lakya	MILT+MILT	20
63.	Lingadahalli	MILT+CDOT	30
64.	M.C. Halli	MILT	50
65.	Magundi	MILT	37

1	2	3	4
66.	Makonahalli	CDOT	20
67.	Mallondur	CDOT	68
68.	Malleshwara	MILT+CDOT	112
69.	Maile	CDOT	46
70.	Mathigatta	MILT	34
71.	Melepal	MILT	24
72.	Mudigera	ILT+CDOT	79
73.	Mugularalli	MILT	26
74.	Muthinakoppa	MILT	53
75.	N.R. Pura	CDOT	128
76.	NMDC	CDOT	-
77.	Narve	CDOT	41
78.	Nemmar	CDOT	56
79.	Nidagatta	MILT	24
80.	Panahanahalli	CDOT	38
81.	Quard Hitlow	CDOT	32
82.	Pandaravalli	MILT	10
83.	Ramenahalli	MILT	31
84.	Rangenahalli	MILT+MILT	45
85.	S.G. Pat	CDOT	43
86.	Sakrayapatna	CDOT	23
87.	Sampigehatli	MILT	5
88.	Shanthigrama	CDOT	39
89.	Shanuvalli	MILT+CDOT	76
90.	Shillykoppa	CDOT	57
91.	Shivani	CDOT	50
92.	Siddaramutli	MILT	18
93.	Singatagera	MILT	41
94.	Siravare	CDOT	26
95.	Sringeri	ILT+CDOT	38
96.	Sunkasale	MILT	19
97.	Tarikera	ILT+CDOT	45
98.	Togarihankal	CDOT	12
99.	Uttameshwara	CDOT	97
100.	Vasbare	CDOT	18
101.	Yagati	CDOT	35
102.	Yellambalase	MILT	13
	Total		5046

Programme Aaj Tak and Tonight

5377. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether any consideration was paid to the informative and educative value of programmes like 'Aaj Tak' and 'Tonight' while squeezing out the Hindi news programme Aaj Tak from prime time to late hours i.e. 10.00 p.m. and altogether squeezing out the English news update from the Doordarshan telecast;

(b) whether due consideration was also paid to the citizen's right to information; and

(c) if so, the reasons for shifting the Hindi news programme to late-night hours and squeezing out the English one altogether?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) The Hindi News Programme 'Aaj Tak' was shifted from the 9.30 p.m. slot to 10.00 p.m. slot keeping in view the overall programming requirement of Doordarshan including raising of more resources and countering a Hindi News Programme coming on a rival channel at the same time i.e. at 10.00 p.m. This shifting of time slot has not affected the popularity of the news programme.

Regarding the English news programme, 'The News Tonight', the producer informed Doordarshan that they had entered into an agreement with a foreign channel 'Star Plus' for producing similar news based programme. Doordarshan, therefore, had no option but to discontinue the programme.

Cellular Consortiums in India

5378. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether following the decision of Department of Telecommunications to charge upto rupees ten a minute on calls from fixed line to mobile phones from February 15, 1997, a number of foreign companies involved in a cellular consortiums in India are reviewing their involvement in this Industry;

(b) if so, the details of such companies alongwith the details of disappointment expressed by them; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No communication/notice has been received from any of the foreign companies in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Closure of Musabani Mines, Bihar

5379. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to close down the Musabani Mine of Chibasa district in Bihar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers likely to be rendered jobless due to the closure of the mine;